

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 096903
ORIGIN EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
INR-05 L-01 PA-01 ICAE-00 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 PM-03
SP-02 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /045 R

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APPROVED BY EUR:JEGOODBY
EUR/RPM:SJLEDOGAR
EUR/WE:BMCKINLEY
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-----026847 150401Z /75-65

O 150145Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
ALL NATO CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMEMBASSY MADRID
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENGLAND

S E C R E T STATE 096903

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652:XGDS-1

TAGS:NATO, IT, UR

SUBJECT:ITALIAN CONCERN ABOUT SOVIET REQUEST FOR SHIP
REPAIR FACILITIES IN NAPLES

REF: A) USNATO 3738 DTG 121839Z APR 78
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B) ROME 6816 DTG 122120Z APR 78

1. LIKE AMEMBASSY ROME, WE WOULD PREFER TO SEE THE
ITALIANS TAKE THE LEAD IN RAISING THE SUBJECT AT NATO.
WE DO NOT SEE WHY THE SUBJECT OF THE MEETING OR THE
DEMANDEUR NEEDS TO BE ANNOUNCED. ALTERNATIVELY, SYG
LUNS CAN CALL A MEETING ON HIS OWN AUTHORITY AND

PRIVATELY EXPLAIN THAT HE CALLED THE MEETING TO EXPLORE REPORTS HE HAD HEARD OF RECENT SOVIET INTEREST IN ACCESS TO ITALIAN PORTS.

2. WHILE IT WOULD APPEAR THAT CATALANO WOULD LIKE TO USE EXPRESSIONS OF ALLIED CONCERN TO BOLSTER GOI RESISTANCE TO THE SOVIET REQUEST, IT IS ALSO LIKELY THAT A DISCUSSION OF ALLIED PRACTICES WILL REVEAL WIDE DIVERGENCIES. IF SO, THE ITALIANS COULD PICK AND CHOOSE AMONG THE VARIED PRECEDENTS IN ORDER TO ASSEMBLE A PACKAGE THAT (1) WOULD OFFER THE SOVIETS MORE THAN THEY CURRENTLY HAVE IN ITALY AND (2) WOULD BE HARD FOR THE ALLIES TO CRITICIZE.

3. WE WOULD ALSO NOTE THAT WE HAVE URGED THE SPANISH TO MAINTAIN TIGHT RESTRICTIONS ON SOVIET ACCESS TO THEIR PORTS. ALLIED ACQUIESCENCE TO A MORE LIBERAL ITALIAN POLICY MIGHT WEAKEN SPANISH POSITION.

4. FOR USNATO: YOU SHOULD APPROACH CATALANO PER PARA 1. IF, HOWEVER, A MEETING IS CALLED IN THE MEANTIME AT THE INSTIGATION OF ANOTHER ALLY, WE WOULD VIEW IT AS PURELY EXPLORATORY IN NATURE. WE WOULD NOT WISH TO TAKE ANY SPECIFIC POSITION UNTIL WE KNOW MORE DETAILS. AT THE SAME TIME, IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO EXPRESS GENERAL US CONCERN ALONG THE LINES IN STATE 090640 (DTG 080122
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APR 78), PARA 2B.

5. DEPARTMENT IS WORKING ON GUIDANCE REQUESTED IN USNATO 3778 (DTG 131809Z APR 78)

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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